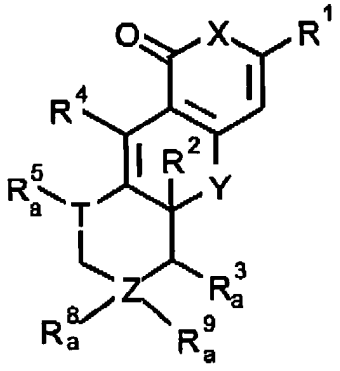
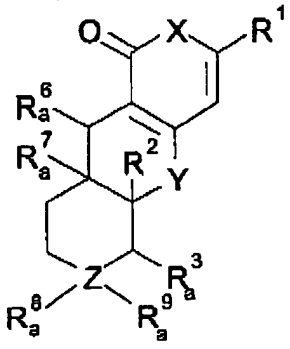
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of ~~treating~~ preventing cataracts, retinopathy, lens cell damage and retinal cell damage caused by diabetes ~~a diabetic complication in the eye~~ comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of one or more compounds of the formula:



or



wherein:

T is independently CR, NR, N, S or O;

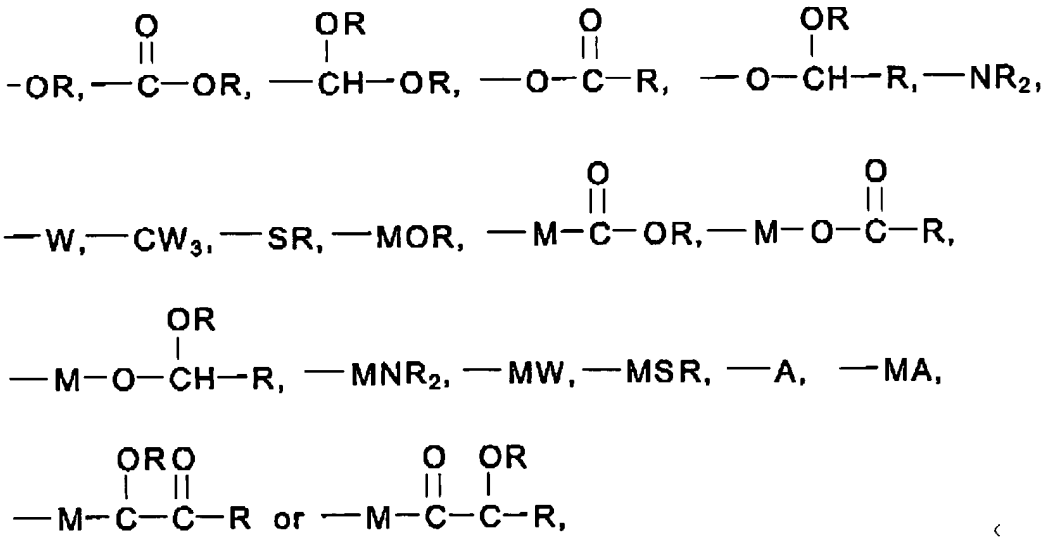
X is independently O, NR, N or S;

Y is independently O, NR, N or S;

Z is independently C, N, S or O;

a is 0 or 1;

R^1, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, R,



wherein R is independently H, OH, alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl, an aromatic ring system, amino, sulfhydryl, or sulfonyl, M is a divalent alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl, aromatic ring system, or sulfonyl, W is Cl, F, Br or OCl, and A is an aromatic ring system;

R^2, R^8 and R^9 are independently R as defined above; and

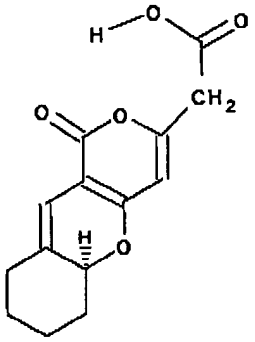
R^6 is independently R, NH_2, OH, or OCOR where R is as set forth above;

R^7 is independently OH or H; or

R^6 and R^7 taken together are O;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters of the foregoing, as well as optical isomers thereof.

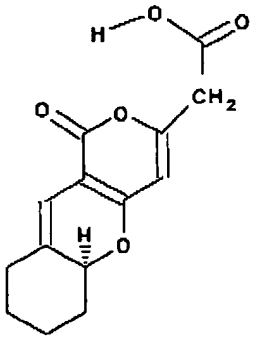
Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is a dog and said compound is:



Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the compound is administered orally.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the compound is administered topically.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is a human and said compound is:

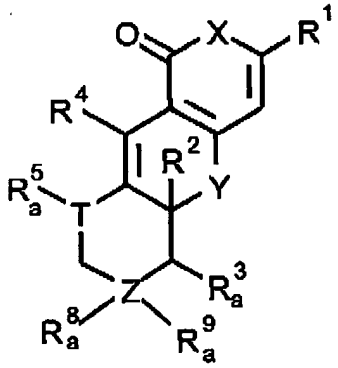


Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the compound is administered orally.

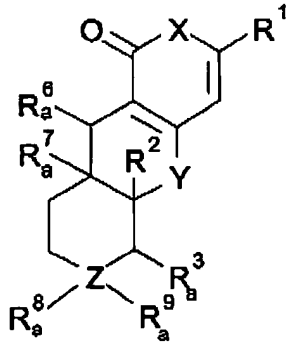
Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the compound is administered topically.

Claims 8-23 (withdrawn)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of treating an ocular diabetic complication ~~symptom or condition~~ selected from the group consisting of: ~~retinopathy,~~ loss of PKC in eye lens cells, polyol accumulation in the eye, galactitol formation from galactose in lens cells, vascular leakage in the eye, and expression of aldose reductase in the retina comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of one or more compounds of the formula:



or



wherein:

T is independently CR, NR, N, S or O;

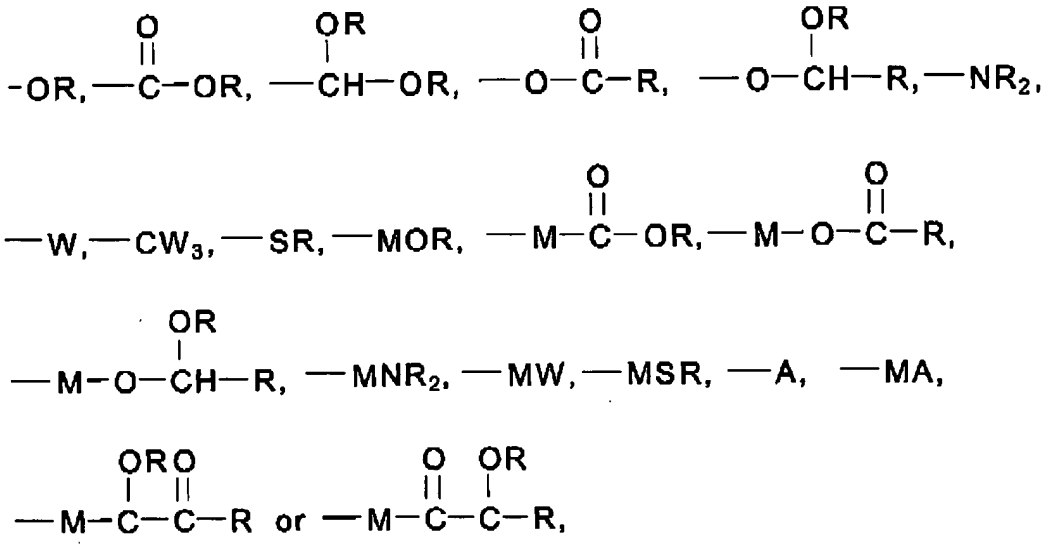
X is independently O, NR, N or S;

Y is independently O, NR, N or S;

Z is independently C, N, S or O;

a is 0 or 1;

R^1, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, R,



wherein R is independently H, OH, alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl, an aromatic ring system, amino, sulfhydryl, or sulfonyl, M is a divalent alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl, aromatic ring system, or sulfonyl, W is Cl, F, Br or OCl, and A is an aromatic ring system;

R^2, R^8 and R^9 are independently R as defined above; and

R^6 is independently R, NH_2, OH, or OCOR where R is as set forth above;

R^7 is independently OH or H; or

R^6 and R^7 taken together are O;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters of the foregoing, as well as optical isomers thereof.